UNITED
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S/1995/1043
19 December 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

NOTE VERBALE DATED 18 DECEMBER 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF DJIBOUTI TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

The Permanent Representative of the Republic of Djibouti to the United Nations presents his compliments to the President of the Security Council and has the honour to request that the Government of the Republic of Djibouti be associated with the sponsors of the letter of 8 December 1995 contained in document S/1995/1025 relating to the issue of consultations between the Security Council and the troop-contributing countries.

It would be highly appreciated if the present letter could be circulated as document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Roble OLHAYE

95-40896 (E) 191295 201295

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LETTER DATED 18 DECEMBER 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF YEMEN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In reference to my letter ROY/407/12.95/A dated today, concerning the Eritrean military operation against the Yemeni island of Hanish AlKubra, I enclose herewith an official communiqué issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Yemen, and request that this be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdalla S. AL-ASHTAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: Arabic]

Communiqué issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Yemen

Undoubtedly, the Security Council has been following the regrettable developments arising from the hostile intentions harboured by the State of Eritrea towards the Republic of Yemen, which emerged when the Eritrean authorities, on 11 November 1995, issued a warning to the Yemeni citizens and the military guard stationed on the Yemeni island of Greater Hanish to leave the island and halt work on one of the investment projects being carried out by one of the companies on the island.

It was possible for the Republic of Yemen to raise the problem at all levels and via all regional and international organizations, because the Yemeni islands concerning which Eritrea sought to stir up a dispute are of concern not only to Yemen but also to all States, since they are located on the international navigation channel in the Red Sea. Nevertheless, the Republic of Yemen preferred to contain the situation and to resolve the problem through direct negotiation between the two neighbouring countries, in affirmation of the concern of the Republic of Yemen for its relations with its neighbour Eritrea and its sincere wish to resolve any disputes about its maritime boundary with Eritrea through peaceful dialogue and negotiation, in accordance with international laws and instruments. With that end in view, the Yemeni Government made contact with the highest governmental levels in Eritrea, as a result of which meetings were convened in Sana'a and Asmara, the most recent being the meeting held at Asmara on 7 December 1995 and chaired by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the two countries, at which the Republic of Yemen once again affirmed its readiness for dialogue and the signing of a memorandum of understanding with Eritrea laying down the bases of bilateral negotiation on the maritime boundary and providing for the possibility of resort to arbitration or to the International Court of Justice. This position clearly reflects the good intentions of the Republic of Yemen and its constant concern to protect the distinguished historical relations between the two countries and to eradicate the anarchy that arose from the unexpected allegations of the Eritrean Government with regard to the Yemeni islands. Agreement was reached at those meetings that any dispute was to be contained and that the dialogue was to be continued after the blessed month of Ramadan.

However, regrettably, the Republic of Yemen was suddenly confronted by Eritrea's launching of its blatant attack on Friday, 15 December 1995, on the Yemeni island of Hanish, in spite of the fact that Yemen had at the time backed and supported Eritrea's attainment of its independence and had devoted its territory and its territorial waters to its struggle, including these islands that Eritrea is today attacking.

Immediately following this attack, the Republic of Yemen expressed its regret and severe condemnation of Eritrea's involvement in this premeditated aggression against Yemeni territory, violation of Yemeni territorial waters and

the threat to security and stability and to international navigation in the Red Sea. It also affirmed its legitimate right to defend its sovereignty over its territory and its territorial waters and to repulse any attack on them. The Eritrean Government bears the responsibility for the consequences of this blatant aggression, which is aimed at impairing the security and stability of the region, which constitutes an inseparable part of the world.

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Draft resolution

The Security Council,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations operation in Cyprus of 10 December 1995 (S/1995/1020 and Add.1),

Taking note of his recommendation that the Security Council extend the mandate of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP),

Noting that the Government of Cyprus has agreed that in view of the prevailing conditions in the island it is necessary to keep the force in Cyprus beyond 31 December 1995,

Reaffirming its earlier relevant resolutions on Cyprus, and in particular resolutions 186 (1964) of 4 March 1964 and 1000 (1995) of 23 June 1995,

Expressing its concern that there has been no progress towards a final political solution,

Noting that no progress has been made on extending the 1989 unmanning agreement,

1. Decides to extend the mandate of UNFICYP for a further period ending on 30 June 1996;

2. Calls upon the military authorities on both sides to ensure that no incidents occur along the buffer zone and to extend their full cooperation to UNFICYP;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to keep under review the structure and strength of UNFICYP with a view to its possible restructuring, and to present any new considerations he may have in this regard;

4. Welcomes the humanitarian review undertaken by UNFICYP with regard to the living conditions of the Greek Cypriots and the Maronites living in the northern part of the island and of Turkish Cypriots living in the southern part of the island, supports UNFICYP's recommendations contained in the Secretary-

General's report (S/1995/1020 and Add.1), and decides to keep the matter under review;

5. Expresses concern about the continuing modernization and upgrading of military forces in the Republic of Cyprus and the lack of progress towards a significant reduction in the number of foreign troops in the Republic of Cyprus, urges once again all concerned to commit themselves to such a reduction and to a reduction of defence spending in the Republic of Cyprus to help restore confidence between the parties and as a first step towards the withdrawal of non-Cypriot forces as described in the set of ideas (S/24472, annex) and calls upon the Secretary-General to promote efforts in this direction;

6. Expresses concern also about the failure by the military authorities on both sides to take reciprocal measures to prohibit along the cease-fire lines live ammunition or weapons other than those which are hand-held and to prohibit also the firing of weapons within sight or hearing of the buffer zone, and calls upon those authorities to enter into discussions with UNFICYP on this matter in line with paragraph 3 of resolution 839 (1993) of 11 June 1993;

7. Regrets the failure to reach agreement on the extension of the 1989 unmanning agreement to cover all areas of the buffer zone where the two sides are in close proximity to each other, and calls upon the military authorities on both sides to cooperate urgently with UNFICYP to this end;

8. Welcomes the initiative of UNFICYP in organizing successful bicommunal events, urges the leaders of both communities to promote tolerance, confidence and reconciliation between the two communities as recommended in the relevant reports of the Secretary-General, and calls upon them to promote further bicommunal contacts and to remove obstacles to such contacts;

9. Welcomes the Secretary-General's decision to continue contacts with the two leaders, to make every effort to find common ground for the basis for a resumption of direct talks;

10. Reaffirms the importance it attaches to early progress being made on the substance of the Cyprus question and on the implementation of the confidence-building measures as called for in resolution 939 (1994) of 29 July 1994;

11. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report during the coming mandate period on his mission of good offices, including a full assessment of his efforts towards reaching a settlement of the situation in Cyprus;

12. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit a report by 10 June 1996 on the implementation of the present resolution;

13. Decides to remain actively seized of the matter.